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OLC 78-2770

Honorable Edward P. Boland, Chairman  
Permanent Select Committee on  
Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

HSC 1

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 1978, which forwarded the Committee's evaluative remarks on NIE 4-1-78 Warsaw Pact Concepts and Capabilities for Going to War in Europe: Implications for NATO Warning of War. I believe the exchange you propose would be useful. It is my understanding that our staffs have already been in contact to set up a time to discuss the issues brought out in the report.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

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Room 11-405, U.S. Capitol  
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## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

July 18, 1978

Honorable Stansfield Turner  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

As you may be aware, the staff of the Subcommittee on Evaluation has been conducting a study of the intelligence community's indications and warning capabilities.

Since NIE 4-1-78 Warsaw Pact Concepts and Capabilities for Going to War in Europe: Implications for NATO Warning of War falls within the scope of this study, the staff has reviewed it closely and prepared the attached two-part assessment. It is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis but seeks to examine a few salient issues. The first part of the report discusses the NIE's treatment of the ambiguity of warning, and the second addresses the apparent differences of opinion over the last few years concerning Soviet attack options and the warning time that might accrue to US/NATO.

It is the staff's assessment that this NIE, being the first devoted to addressing the warning problem in Europe, should have attempted to clear the air concerning previous warning judgments and developed a presentation of evidence similar to that in NIE 11-3/8. Instead, judgments appear with little rationale, and it is difficult to determine what has changed the community's perception of scenarios, force postures, and warning times.

You may, if you wish, circulate this report as you see fit. Once your staff has completed its review, the Subcommittee wishes to meet with them to discuss some of the issues brought out in the report. Mr. Thomas K. Latimer, Staff Director, can be contacted to set up this session.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD P. BOLAND  
Chairman

Enclosure

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I am forwarding herewith a copy of a letter from Chairman Boland to Admiral Turner. Prior to 27 July I will need to have some sort of a reaction from you on when (roughly) the analysts will be prepared to meet with HPSCI staff to discuss the NIE and the attached comments to it.

I am also forwarding a draft letter -- the purposes of which are (1) to get ER off my back and (2) to get some sort of time/date frame for eventual HPSCI/analysts discussions of the NIE and HPSCI commentary thereupon.

Thanks,

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Frederick P. Hitz  
Legislative Counsel

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78-2144  
JPD

SIGMANRE

The attached letter to Chairman Boland regarding NIE 4-1-78 Warsaw Pact Concepts and Capabilities for Going to War in Europe: Implications for NATO Warning of War is recommended for your signature. The Committee staffer most intimately involved with the study will be out of town for most of August; hence the Committee has suggested that the requested discussion take place in early September.

This has been coordinated

with [redacted] NFAC 25X1  
CSS.

25X1

Frederick P. Hitz

I thought it was a poor evaluation that didn't recognize the limited purposes of the NIE - I want to say so

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